

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/711,669
Docket No.: 14146-US-PA

In The Drawings:

Please substitute the attached drawing of Fig.2B for the pending drawing of Fig.

2A. The amended portion is the label of the reference number "203" from "Displaying state (standard mode)" to "Displaying state (ECO mode)".

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REMARKS

Present Status of Application

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed on Jul. 21, 2006. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Natio (US 2003/0218602). Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natio as applied to claim 6 and 13 respectively above, and further in view of Shoji et al. (US 6,734,641).

Applicants have incorporated features of claims 2, 3 and 4 into claim 1, and have further incorporated features of claims 9, 10 and 11 into claim 8. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 5-8, 12-14 remain pending in the present application. It is believed that no new matter is added by way of these amendments made to the claims or otherwise to the application.

Amendment to the Drawing

Applicants have amended the label of the reference number "203" of Fig.2B from "Displaying state (standard mode)" to "Displaying state (ECO mode)", which is supported in the Para. [0024] stating "[U]nder the four states, the lamp is set to the ECO mode to display with low brightness for prolonging the lifetime" in the originally-filed specification."

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Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Natio (US 2003/0218602).

In response to the rejections thereto, Applicants have incorporated features of claims 2, 3 and 4 into claim 1, and have further incorporated features of claims 9, 10 and 11 into claim 8. As such, Applicants submit that the method, as set forth in claims 1, 5-6 and 8, 12-13 are novel and unobvious over Natio, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

With respect to amended claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method for managing a lamp brightness, suitable for use in a displaying apparatus using a lamp to produce an image, the method comprising:

setting a selection item corresponding to a mode, the mode being one of a first mode and a second mode, wherein a brightness of the lamp at the first mode is different from the brightness at the second mode;

searching a display signal, wherein the displaying apparatus is at one of a displaying state, a searching state, a no-signal state, and a video mute state, wherein the display signal exists when the displaying apparatus is at the displaying state;

setting the lamp to the first mode when the display signal exists and the selection item corresponds to the first mode;

setting the lamp to the second mode when the display signal exists and the selection item corresponds to the second mode; and

setting the lamp to the second mode when the display signal does not exist.

(Emphasis Added)

It has been held that "[A] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference", and "[T]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim". See MPEP 2131 and the related case law recited therein.

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Regarding claim 1, the Examiner contends: "Natio teaches in figure 2 a method ... comprising: ...the mode being one of a first mode and a second mode (yes or no), wherein a brightness of the lamp at the first mode is different from the brightness at the second mode (at S5 the lamp luminance is reduced where as it is not reduced if it is in the other mode); searching a specific signal (at S8); setting the lamp to the first mode when the specific signal exists and the selection item corresponds to the first mode (This is the no option off of S1); setting the lamp to the second mode when the specific signal exists and the selection item corresponds to the second mode (This is the yes option off of S1); and setting the lamp to the second mode when the specific signal does not exist (this is the No option off of S8)".

Applicant does not agree with such assertions and respectfully submits the Natio reference did not either expressly or inherently describe all features of the amended claim 1. More particularly, at least the features of "setting a selection item" and "searching a display signal,.... wherein the display signal exists when the displaying apparatus is at the displaying state" are not either expressly or inherently described in the Natio reference.

In the claimed invention of claim 1, a selection item is set corresponding to a mode, the mode being one of a first mode and a second mode. Furthermore, by searching the display signal to check whether the display signal exists or not, that is, to check whether the displaying apparatus is at the displaying state, the lamp is set to the first mode or the second mode, in which wherein a brightness of the lamp at the first mode is

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different from the brightness at the second mode. The claimed invention has three possibility and their corresponding solutions, including the lamp is set to the first mode when the display signal exists and the selection item corresponds to the first mode, the lamp is set to the second mode when the display signal exists and the selection item corresponds to the second mode. The claimed invention of claim 1 provides the option that the lamp can be set to the first mode or the second mode when the display signal exists, which is not either expressly or inherently described in the Natio reference.

In the Natio reference, the selection of A/V mute (visual mute and audio mute) is input through the user interface 6 is monitored (step S1, Para. [0032]). If the A/V mute is selected ("yes" in Step S1), the lamp drive circuit 1A is controlled to lower the luminance of the lamp 1 to a degree that does not allow the illumination light to transmit through the display screen of the light modulation element 2 (Step S5, Para. [0034]). If the A/V mute is not selected ("no" in Step S1), the lamp 1, the light modulation element 2, and the speaker 4 are operated by normal control, so that the image display and audio output is achieved (Step S2 and S3, Para. [0033]). Whether or not the cancellation of the A/V mute mode is input through the user interface 6 is monitored, and when the A/V mute mode is still selected, the A/V mute setting is maintained (Step S8, Para. [0037]).

The cancellation of the A/V mute mode, which is asserted to be the "display signal" of the claimed invention, can be used to determined the A/V mute setting is maintained or not, which is different from "the lamp can be set to the first mode or the second mode when the display signal exists" as claimed in claim 1.

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Furthermore, the Natio reference did not either expressly or inherently describe at least the feature of "the displaying apparatus is at one of a displaying state, a searching state, a no-signal state, and a video mute state", as claimed.

In the invention, no matter what state the displaying apparatus is, the lamp of the displaying apparatus can be set to the first mode or the second mode by "setting a selection item" and "the display signal." As stated in Para. [0028] of the specification of the invention,

"the method for managing the lamp brightness in the invention can automatically switch the lamp to the standard mode when it is at displaying state, so as to display in higher brightness, and the lamp is automatically switched to the ECO mode when it is at other states, so as to display in lower brightness.it has more convenient use and the lamp can be used in an optimizing manner, wherein both the quality of image and the lamp lifetime are taken into consideration."

However, in the Natio reference, if the A/V mute is not selected, the lamp 1, the light modulation element 2, and the speaker 4 are operated normally. It is not disclosed that the luminance of the lamp 1 can be lowered if the the A/V mute is selected, which is different from the invention.

As such, Applicants submit that the method, as set forth in claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Natio, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus claim 1 and its dependent claims 5-7 should be allowed.

As the same reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits the Natio reference did not either expressly or inherently describe all features of the amended claim 8. More particularly, the Natio reference did not either expressly or inherently describe at

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least the features of "searching a display signal, wherein the displaying apparatus is at one of a displaying state, a searching state, a no-signal state, and a video mute state, wherein the display signal exists when the displaying apparatus is at the displaying state" as claimed in claim 8.

Applicants submit that claim 8, and its dependent claims 12-13 are novel and unobvious over Natio, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natio as applied to claim 6 and 13 respectively above, and further in view of Shoji et al. (US 6,734,641).

Applicants submit that claims 7 and 14 indirectly depend on allowable independent claims 1 and 13 respectively, and thus should also be allowable.

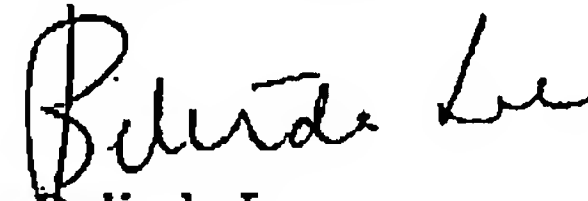
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1, 5-8 and 12-14 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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